

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) An antimicrobial composition comprising
  - (1) a mixture of iodide anions and thiocyanate anions,
  - (2) periodic acid or a salt thereof, and  
at least one polymer or copolymer comprising as units
    - (a) 5 to 100 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising nitrogen and/or phosphorous containing groups,
    - (b) 0 to 5 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising acidic groups,
    - (c) 0 to 75 % by weight of at least one further comonomer, and
    - (d) 0 to 5 % by weight of crosslinking comonomers.
2. (Original) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amounts of the units of the copolymer are:
  - (a) 10 to 60 %,
  - (b) 20 to 70 %,
  - (c) 0 to 70 %, and
  - (d) 0 to 5 %.
3. (Currently amended) A composition according to ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein the composition is a liquid composition.
4. (Original) A composition according to claim 3, wherein the solvent of the composition comprises water.

5. (Currently amended) A composition according to ~~claims 3 and 4~~ claim 3, wherein the concentrations of the components in the solution are

~~0,01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,~~

~~0,005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,~~

~~0,005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and~~

~~0,005 to 10 % by weight polymer or copolymer~~

0.01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,

0.005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,

0.005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and

0.005 to 10 % by weight polymer or copolymer.

6. (Currently amended) A composition according to ~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises another biocidal active compound.

7. (Currently amended) A composition according to ~~claims 3 to 6~~ claim 3, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant or emulsifier and the liquid composition is an oil-in-water-emulsion or a surfactant based solution.

8. cancelled

9. cancelled

10. (New) A microbicide for skin antiseptics; antimicrobial soaps; suntans; disinfection of medical equipment; treatment of swimming pools, air-conditioning processes; sanitation of accomodation for man; chemical toilets; treatment of sewage/waste, hospital infectious waste and soil or other substances; laundry; disinfection of animal housing/stables/machinery/footwear, hatcheries, means of transport; fish farming; floors,

walls, and equipment in food processing plants; or the manufacture of aseptic packaging material which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 1.

11. (New) An active component which comprises the composition as claimed in claim 1.
12. (New) The active component as claimed in claim 11, wherein the active component is used in deodorants, antibacterial skin washes, anti-acne preparations, anti-athletes foot preparations, anti-dandruff preparations, dental preparations, impregnated materials, ophthalmic preparations or sterilants.